

# Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

(P.L. 90-542, as amended)  
(16 U.S.C. 1271-1287)

<sup>1</sup>An Act

To provide for a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America Congress assembled, that,*

(a) this Act may be cited as the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act."

## **Congressional declaration of policy.**

(b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be maintained in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the existing national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or segments thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill vital national conservation purposes.

## **Congressional declaration of purpose.**

(c) The purpose of this Act is to implement this policy by instituting a national wild and scenic rivers system, by designating the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the criteria by which and standards according to which additional components may be added to the system from time to time.

## **Composition of system; requirements for State-administered components.**

SECTION 2. (a) The national wild and scenic rivers system shall comprise rivers (i) authorized for inclusion therein by Act of Congress, or (ii) that are designated as wild, scenic, or recreational rivers by or pursuant to an act of the legislature of the State or States through which they flow, that are to be permanently administered as wild, scenic or recreational rivers by agency or political subdivision of the State or States concerned, that are found by the Secretary of the Interior, upon application of the Governor of the State or the Governors of the States concerned, or a person or persons thereunto duly appointed by him or them, to meet the criteria established by this Act and such criteria supplementary thereto as he may prescribe, and that are approved for inclusion in the system, including, upon application of the Governor of the State concerned, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Maine; that segment of the Wolf River, Wisconsin, which flows through Langlade County; and that segment of the New River in North Carolina extending from its confluence with Dog Creek downstream approximately 26.5 miles to the Virginia State line.